

Community Council: Glen Lyon and Loch Tay

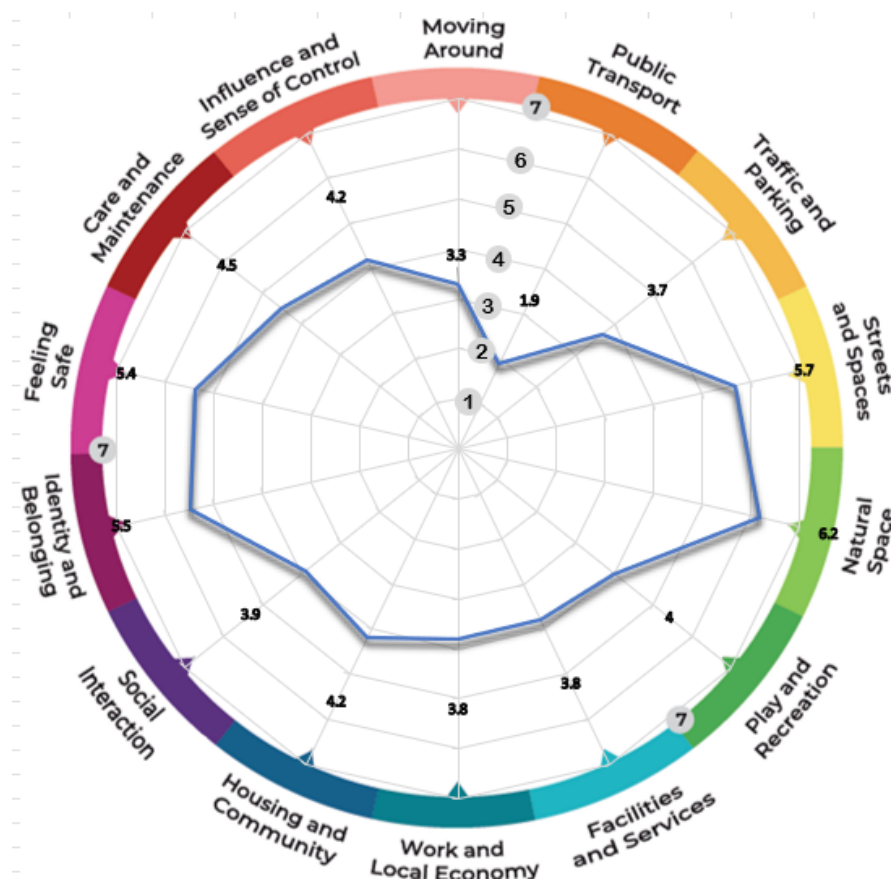
The Glen Lyon and Loch Tay Community Council area incorporates the north shore of the loch, as well as a large landward rural area to the north including Glen Lyon and the Ben Lawers mountain range. The area includes a number of villages and hamlets including Fearnan, Fortingall, Invervar, Lawers, and Bridge of Balgie.

A place standard session was held with the Glen Lyon primary school. 18 people responded to the survey or attended a place standard session including 9 from Glen Lyon primary school and 5 from the Fearnan Village Association.

Place Standard Scores

Note that due to the tailored nature of conversations not all participants completed scores, this includes drop in events. Note that place standard scores are out of 7. Seven is where the least improvement is needed, and 1 the most.

Glen Lyon and Loch Tay Place Standard Scores



1. Moving Around (3.3)

There is a general consensus that moving around, particularly in the remoter rural areas, is more difficult without a car. Roads are generally busy with evidence of speeding and more dangerous conditions for walking and cycling. Not many roads have pavements and are narrow which can

be unsafe. There are some that consider the less-busy roads to be safe to access for walking and cycling including for children in the area around the primary school.

Suggestions for improvement include improved walking and cycling facilities including off road routes, and traffic calming measures.

2. Public Transport (1.9)

There is general consensus that the area is not well served by public transport including buses/trains, and that current facilities/services are not well integrated. People would use public transport if improved services were available including better access to Aberfeldy to use facilities as well as further afield for access to other public transport services at Pitlochry/Dunkeld/Crianlarich. There is some recognition that the area is rural and service provision will be limited with expectation to predominantly use private cars.

Suggested improvements include integrated public transport network, more frequent services, and less development.

3. Traffic & Parking (3.7)

Traffic is noted as being busy across the area, particularly during the high tourism season in the summer. There are concerns noted around: fast traffic; lack of, and unsafe, parking; and large vehicles on rural roads including HGVs, tractors, timber lorries, livestock lorries. There are noted concerns around traffic movement in Fearnan including the junction with the A827 and narrow roads through the village. There are a number of respondents who have no issue with traffic and parking in the area highlighting many homes have off-street parking.

Suggested improvements include improving road safety outside Glen Lyon primary school and in Fearnan village, traffic calming measures, road safety enforcement, less development around Loch Tay, improved signage for tourists/visitors, and improved sighting at junction of Fearnan with A827.

4. Streets, Squares & Buildings (5.7)

With a small number of exceptions, generally the area is regarded as high quality with a mixture of buildings and features both within the villages and in the surrounding area. Glen Lyon is recognised for its landscape value, and Fearnan and Kenmore recognised for their unique historic character. There are concerns that there is a lack of public facilities and a strong desire to protect against the loss of existing facilities which are vital for the area.

Suggested improvements include having strong planning protections in place in relation to new development including for Fearnan and the surrounding area as well as improving the road infrastructure including the A827.

5. Natural Spaces (6.2)

There is general consensus that the area is well connected to nature, there is an abundance of wildlife and there are excellent opportunities for nature-based recreation. The impact of new development is noted as a concern including around Loch Tay where there are significant development pressures. There are a number of areas within Fearnan noted as being of poor natural quality, and instances of there not being enough parking to access Loch Tay.

Suggested improvements include better management of specific sites in Fearnan, ensuring that the loch is not over-exploited from development, improved road conditions e.g. A827, and children are particularly keen to see planting of more trees.

6. Play & Recreation (4)

Children at Glen Lyon primary school highlighted a number of places to play in the glen, and activities are available nearby including Aberfeldy. There are not many public spaces in the more rural areas, but this doesn't stop people from meeting up. A risk from new development also highlighted as a concern. Fearnan Hall identified as an important asset in the local community for recreational purposes.

Suggested improvements include upgrading existing play equipment at the primary school, support through grants and funding for existing facilities (e.g. Fearnan Village Hall), and better public transport to access facilities.

7. Facilities & Services (3.8)

As the area is rural, access to services is dependent on getting to bigger settlements e.g. Aberfeldy, Killin, Pitlochry, Perth, Killin, Dundee. There is a mix of feeling about the adequacy of existing facilities and services within these bigger settlements, however there is a strong feeling of concern towards losing local facilities such as the shop/post office/hotel. Inclement weather can be an issue for accessing services when needed.

Suggested improvements include strong planning protections for local community assets/facilities, improved public transport, improved broadband/mobile service, improved offer of shops in Aberfeldy, and more frequent library services.

8. Work & Local Economy (3.8)

Key concerns highlighted around lack of housing generally, younger people moving away due to lack of affordable housing and lack of jobs, jobs generally being linked to rural economy/tourism, and difficulty in starting new businesses.

Suggested improvements include delivering more housing which is affordable and supporting the younger generation to stay in the area including more jobs and diverse job availability.

9. Housing & Community (4.2)

There are key concerns highlighted around lack of affordable housing, fuel poverty being an issue, too many second/holiday homes, and lack of long-term rental properties. It was noted that due to lack of accommodation some families have resorted to living in caravans. The lack of available housing is having a significant impact on the local economy and ability to fill jobs. Many families stay in estate-owned properties in Glen Lyon and dependent on related jobs.

Suggested improvements include delivering more affordable housing across the area including for young people/families/workers/local people and restricting second homes and holiday accommodation.

10. Social Interaction (3.9)

There is a mix of feeling regarding the opportunities to meet up with others in the area. Some identify range of different places and opportunities to have social contact (often through organised events/activities) whereas others note that opportunities are limited including the loss of existing facilities such as hotels/shops. Social events often rely on volunteer time e.g. organised activities at Fearnan Village Hall.

Suggested improvements include making it easier for people to start/grow business/activities in the area, improved public transport, improved offer of social facilities including cafes/hotels, and access to generator for Fearnan Village Hall.

11. Identity & Belonging (5.5)

There is a strong feeling of identify and belonging for respondents across the area with many examples provided including proximity to the outdoors, the area's history, and welcoming and supporting community. The loss of local amenities is highlighted as a concern as well as environmental improvements needed for specific sites which is suggested as a way to improve the quality of the area.

12. Feeling Safe (5.4)

Generally respondents feel safe in the local area, however there are concerns around road safety as a pedestrian, issues of over development, and concerns about holiday accommodation in Fearnan. Children and young people all expressed that they felt safe in the area.

Suggested improvements include improving road safety, and enforcing noise restrictions/licensing for holiday accommodation.

13. Care & Maintenance (4.5)

There is a mix of feeling around the care and maintenance of the local area. Some feel that the area is well maintained with good refuse collection services provided by PKC and residents maintaining their own properties well. Others have noted concerns in relation to dog fouling, litter, potholes, and examples of unkempt land/properties.

Suggested improvements include additional litter bins and recycling facilities, better enforcement within the local area (e.g. Cow Park), and improved road maintenance.

14. Influence & Sense of Control (4.2)

There is a general feeling that more could be done to improve influence over, and transparency of, local decision-making including planning decisions. There is a feeling amongst some that it's not worth getting involved as they don't feel listened to.

Suggested improvements include improving transparency of decision making, involving communities more, and increased accountability for local representatives. Children in the Glen Lyon area also noted a range of priorities for change in the local area.